

Environmental Impact Statement

OPTIMIZATION OF POWDER RIVER TRAINING COMPLEX

Ellsworth Air Force Base



Environmental Effects

Natural Resources

- No on-ground effects to species or habitats as there would be no ground disturbance
- Wildlife and domestic animals may experience temporary minor behavioral effects
- Ranches beneath the PRTC are avoided by 2,000 feet seasonally during calving/weaning and at other times to the extent possible
- Noise may affect but is not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species below the airspace
- Consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service is complete

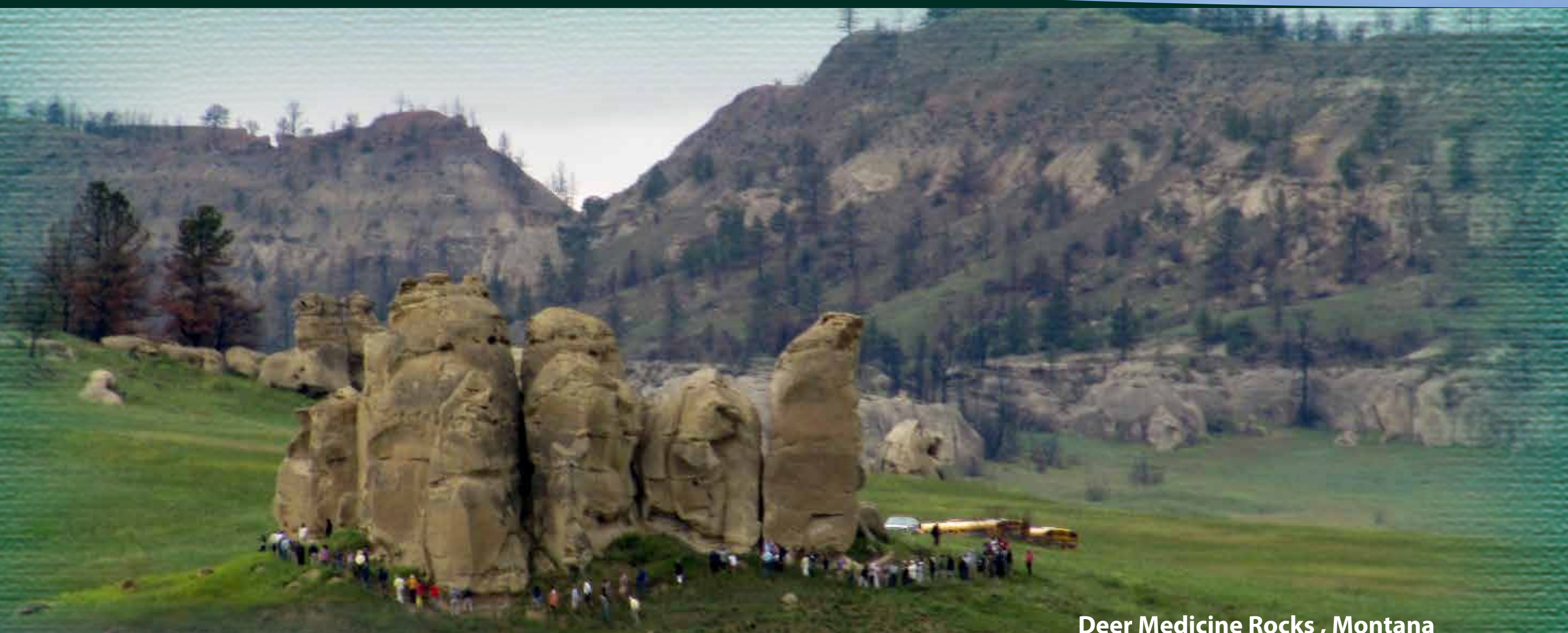
Noise

AIRFIELD (Large Force Exercises Only)

- Increased airfield operations during Large Force Exercises would expand noise around the airfield
- No land use compatibility issues
- Eight schools would experience 1 to 2 minutes more noise at a level that may interfere with speech

AIRSPACE

- No noticeable change to noise beneath the airspace
- Supersonic noise would continue to be concentrated in PR2, PR3, and Gap B, but would not exceed thresholds for land use compatibility



Cultural Resources

- Existing avoidances of historic properties and tribal ceremonies and events would remain in place, reducing the potential for effects
- No effects expected to archaeological sites as there would be no ground disturbance
- Routine sonic booms over historic properties are unlikely; there may be potential for sonic booms during Large Force Exercises
- No new visual or noise intrusions
- Consultation with State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribes is ongoing



Thank you for your participation!

For more information visit: www.PRTCairspaceEIS.com